

AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES NEWSLETTER

The U.S. Embassy is transmitting the following monthly newsletter via its warden system as a public service to U.S. citizens in Mongolia. Please feel free to disseminate this message to U.S. citizens in your organizations or to other Americans you know.

Town Hall Meeting on June 15, 2010



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On June 15, 2010 Consular Section and Regional Security Office held a joint Town Hall Meeting to discuss security and immigration issues that American Citizens face in Mongolia.

Four officials from the Mongolian Immigration Authority headed by Ms. Gerelchuluun, Deputy Director of the Agency, as well as over 50 unofficial Americans who reside long-term in Mongolia were present at the meeting.

The meeting started with Tim Feeney, Regional Security Officer, raising the concerns over the increased security and crime issues. He drew the participants' attention to the increased number of xenophobic attacks against foreign nationals in Ulaanbaatar over the past several months. RSO Feeney advised US Citizens to exercise extreme caution when taking taxis or any other public transportation and to avoid going out alone at night. Many questions were asked and personal experiences shared regarding crime in Mongolia.

Then Consul Chris Anderson introduced the officials from the Mongolian Immigration Authority, who gave a detailed presentation on the immigration laws pertaining to foreigners in Mongolia. It was specifically mentioned that any foreign citizen who violates immigration rules twice in one year will be deported from Mongolia and denied entry to the country for the following year.

The Town Hall participants were given a chance to directly ask questions and discuss immigration issues with the Mongolian officials. The questions ranged from work permits and visa extension and registration with the Mongolian Immigration to bringing unaccompanied children to Mongolia. After the official program ended, many participants stayed for refreshments and a chance to meet each other and to discuss individual concerns with Embassy staff.



New Schedule of Consular Fees to Take Effect on July 13, 2010

On June 28, 2010, the U.S. Department of State published its Schedule of Fees for Consular Services in the Federal Register. The schedule includes fees for passports, immigrant visas and other consular services. The changes will take effect on July 13, 2010, 15 days after publication in the Federal Register. The revised fees will cover actual operating expenses for the 301 overseas consular posts, 23 domestic passport agencies and other centers that provide these consular services to U.S. and foreign citizens.

The most notable change is that additional passport pages will go from no charge to a fee of \$82. The following are highlights of the other fee increases:

- The total charge for a first-time passport book for an adult, including the application fee, security surcharge and execution fee, will increase from \$100 to \$135.
- The total charge for an adult passport book renewal, including the application fee and security surcharge, will increase from \$75 to \$110.
- The total charge for a minor passport book (age 16 and under), including the application fee, security surcharge and execution fee, will increase from \$85 to \$105.
- The fee for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad will increase from \$65 to \$100.
- Notarial and authentication services, which now range from \$20 to \$30, will increase to \$50 for each service.

All applicants for new passports have the option of requesting 52 page passport books, and we recommend that those of you with frequent international travel request the bigger books to make it less likely you will need additional pages later on.

The 27 adjusted fees are based on a Cost of Service Study completed by the Bureau of Consular Affairs in June 2009. The study, which was the most detailed and exhaustive ever conducted by the U.S. Department of State, established the true cost of providing these consular services, which the Department recovers through the collection of fees. A full list of adjusted fees can be viewed [online here](#).

Increase of Non-Immigrant Visa Application Fee

Starting June 4, 2010, applicants for all visas that are not petition-based, including **B1/B2 tourist and business visitor visas** and all student and exchange-visitor visas, will pay a fee of **\$140**.

Applicants for petition-based visas (H, L, O, P, Q, R visas) will pay an application fee of **\$150**.

Visa fee for **E visas for Treaty Traders/ Investors** will be **\$390**, and for **K visas for Fiancées of U.S. Citizens** - **\$350**.

All prospective applicants who have paid the current fee of \$131 to an off-site fee collector will be required to pay a \$9 differential at one of Khan Bank branches. ALL applications received at the Consular Section must be accompanied by the new fee amount, regardless of the date the fee was paid.

For more information on the U.S. visa application process, please visit the Embassy website at: <http://mongolia.usembassy.gov/>

For an explanation of the types of visas or to answer any other question you might have about visas, please [click here](#).

TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW!

**American Independence Day Celebration
at the International School of Ulaanbaatar (ISU)
July 3rd from noon-4:00pm**

**Avoid the long lines (30 minutes or more) and buy your tickets early!
Tickets are available at the Embassy CAC, Millie's Café, and American Food Shop!**

- Music • Games • Barbeque • Kids' Parade • Dessert Contest
- Craft Vendors

Bring a dessert and get one FREE ticket at the gate!

www.4thofJulyPicnic.blogspot.com

Adults: 7500tg (10,000tg at gate)
Kids 5-12: 2500tg (3500tg at gate)
Kids under 5: FREE

ATTENTION VOTERS !

This coming November, U.S. voters will elect 39 U.S. Senators and the entire House of Representatives. For overseas voters, the absentee voting process will be much easier, thanks in large part to a new law - the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act - that the U.S. Congress enacted last year.

To vote absentee, U.S. citizens living overseas must be registered to vote, and must request an absentee ballot. You can accomplish both tasks by completing a Federally-issued combination voter registration application and absentee ballot request form known as the Federal Post Card Application, or FPCA. This form, along with State-by-State instructions, is available on the Federal Voting Assistance Program website at www.fvap.gov, or from the U.S. Embassy in Mongolia.

The new law gives U.S. citizens overseas the ability to request and receive absentee ballots electronically. Just send in a new FPCA with your email and/or complete fax number clearly written out. U.S. citizens who have changed their names, addresses, or email addresses, or who are infrequent voters, should also submit a new FPCA.

Be sure to follow your State's instructions carefully when completing the form and sending it to local election officials in the United States. Both the [FVAP website](http://www.fvap.gov) and the [Overseas Vote Foundation website](http://www.OverseasVoteFoundation.org) have wizards that assist you in completing and addressing the FPCA.

If you do not receive your absentee ballot after sending in your FPCA within a reasonable time period, notify your local election officials by phone or email. You can also use the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) as a back-up emergency ballot. Check www.FVAP.gov.

Consular Visits to Verbist

June was a great month for Consular Verbist outreach!

On June 1st, some of Consular staff along with other families from the U.S. Embassy joined the Children and Mothers' Day Celebration at Verbist and saw a wonderful concert prepared by Verbist kids. In spite of the hot weather that day, children were very excited and motivated to show us their best performances! We appreciate all the songs and dances shown by these talented kids!

On June 11, Consular Section hosted a fundraising BBQ/ Karaoke Happy Hour at Star Community Center. The Party was very well-attended, in fact we even ran out of food because of your great support! Thank you to all those who participated and made donations to Verbist kids.

Many of you one more time had a chance to enjoy the show and meet "the little stars" in person!

Verbist kids are now in their summer camp and enjoying Mongolian nature at its best. They have planted some vegetables and are taking good care of their garden.

Watch for the next Verbist Happy Hour sometime in early fall after everybody is back from vacation!



A Message to American Communities and Organizations in Mongolia

The State Department strongly encourages American citizens living or planning to travel abroad to register your travel with the Department of State. Registration makes it possible to contact you if necessary, whether because of a family emergency in the United States or because of a crisis in the country you are visiting. Registration is a free service provided by the State Department, and is easily accomplished online at <https://travelregistration.state.gov>.

Note that, in accordance with the Privacy Act, the Department of State may not release your information without your express written authorization.

You should also fill out the emergency contact information section on your passport application and in your passport book. If something happens to you overseas, your passport is the first place local authorities will look to find someone to notify. Write the information in pencil if you think you may need to change it in the future.



Embassy Contact Information

American Citizen Services
Embassy of the United States
11th Micro District
Big Ring Road
Ulaanbaatar 13, Mongolia
Tel: 976-11329-095
Fax: 976-11320-776
After-hours
or emergency number: 9911-4168
E-mail: UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov
- or -
American Embassy Ulaanbaatar
4410 Ulaan Baatar Place
Washington, DC, 20521-4410



We also advise leaving a detailed itinerary and copies of your passport biographical-data page with a friend or relative in the United States. For more information, please visit: http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips_1232.html#residing

Once you have registered with the Embassy, you will receive e-mail announcements, Travel Warnings and other emergency notifications.

Travel Warnings and Alerts

[Haiti](#) 06/24/2010
[Israel, the West Bank and Gaza](#) 06/20/2010
[Guinea](#) 06/16/2010
[Nepal](#) 06/15/2010
[Nigeria](#) 06/15/2010

[Jamaica](#) 06/24/2010
[Pacific Typhoon Season](#) 06/16/2010
[Hurricane Season](#) 06/16/2010
[South Africa](#) 05/25/2010

For additional information about these travel warnings and alerts, please go to this site:

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html

WONDERING IF THE FLIGHT IS ON TIME?

This website has virtually every flight in the world and is updated regularly. It has been used for MIAT and Korean Air flights and it has been accurate every time.

<http://www.flightstats.com/>

Upcoming Holidays

July 5—Independence Day (observed)
July 11—14—Naadam
September 6—Labor Day

